

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: BONN

Info

TO: Secretary of State

RMR

NO: 2328, JANUARY 29, 7 PM

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PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 2328; REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 497, USAREUR
HEIDELBERG 371, LONDON, PARIS, USAFE WIESBADEN UNNUMBERED

REFERENCE BERLIN'S 885 TO DEPARTMENT JANUARY 27.

1. IN TRIPARTITE MEETING TODAY, BRITISH SAID THEIR PEOPLE
IN BERLIN FELT CHANCES WERE "NEGLIGIBLE" OF SOVIETS RECONSIDERING
THEIR POSITION ON STAMPING, AND THAT, UNLESS THREE POWERS
WERE PREPARED TO RUN RISK OF TRAINS BEING HELD UP AFTER
FEBRUARY 10, THEY SHOULD AGREE PROVISIONALLY TO SOVIET STAMPING,
SUBJECT TO FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

(A) THAT STAMPING IS DONE ON STATION PLATFORMS;

(B) THAT THERE BE NO DELAY IN TRAIN SCHEDULES (IF DELAYS
OCCUR, QUESTION COULD ALWAYS BE REOPENED);

(R) THAT TRAIN CREWS HAVE 30-DAY ORDERS (BRITISH SAID
ALTHOUGH THEIR CREWS HAVE SINGLE ROUND-TRIP ORDERS, THEY
FELT IT DESIRABLE IMPOSE SUCH CONDITION).

2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH FOREGOING.
HE FEELS WE HAVE NOW REGISTERED OBJECTIONS AND CAN RETIRE
WITHOUT ANY REAL LOSS OF FACE AND WITH NO LOSS ON ANY
SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF PRINCIPLE. BRITISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES
ALSO AGREE AND FEEL WHOLE AFFAIR HAS BEEN "TEMPEST IN TEACUP."

3. FRENCH SAID THAT SEVERAL DAYS AFTER OUR RECEIPT OF
PARIS TELEGRAM 3471 TO DEPARTMENT JANUARY 23, QUAI D'ORSAY
CABLED

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-2- 2328, JANUARY 29, 7 PM, FROM BONN

CABLED EMBASSY HERE SAYING IT "RECOGNIZED PERTINENCE" OF DEPARTMENT'S ARGUMENTS. NO FIRM INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN, HOWEVER, AND EMBASSY HAS HAD NOTHING FROM PARIS SINCE POLITICAL ADVISERS' MEETING JANUARY 27 WITH KOTSIUBA. FRENCH AMBASSADOR FEARS THAT REFUSAL TO ACCEPT STAMPING WILL LEAD TO DEADLOCK WHICH HE WOULD WISH TO AVOID; THEREFORE, IF NECESSARY TO AVOID IT, HE WOULD RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. WE SAID WE WOULD COMMUNICATE FOREGOING TO DEPARTMENT AND AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE JOINING IN DISCUSSION ANY TRIPARTITE POSITION. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE KNOWING SOONEST:

(A) IF DEPARTMENT DOES NOT AGREE BRITISH POSITION, WHAT SPECIFICALLY DOES DEPARTMENT PROPOSE SAYING IN NEXT ROUND WITH KOTSIUBA?

(B) IN LIGHT DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM 1908 JANUARY 22, WHAT IS DEPARTMENT'S POSITION RE TURNING TRAINS BACK, AND CONSEQUENCES, RATHER THAN SUBMITTING TO SOVIET STAMPING IF SOVIET POSITION IS FIRM, AS WE BELIEVE IT IS.

BRUCE

LOS

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